

Message Text

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46

ACTION ARA-10

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FBIE-00 PM-03 NSC-07 SP-02 SS-14 RSC-01 L-02 H-01

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1734

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 4180

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: HUTCHISON CASE: NEW ARRANGEMENT FOR DELIVERIES OF PROVISIONS;

TELECON WITH DR. QUEZADA OCT. 7

1. AT APPROXIMATELY 7 P.M. LAST NIGHT MY DISTINGUISHED SPANISH COLLEAGUE CALLED WITH CONSIDERABLE AGITATION TO INQUIRE WHETHER HE COULD DROP BY IMMEDIATELY. SHORTLY THEREAFTER THE VENEZUELAN CHARGE ALSO CALLED WITH AN URGENT REQUEST TO DROP BY. WHEN WE WERE ALL TOGETHER, AMBASSADOR VALLS SHOWED ME A "MEMORANDUM" FROM GENERAL GUZMAN ADDRESSED TO HIM AND TO ME (TRANSLATION SENT SEPTTEL), WHICH HAD BEEN HANDED TO HIM BY A DOMINICAN POLICEMAN, IN WHICH GUZMAN SAID THAT THE POLICE HAD DECIDED THAT HENCEFORTH ONLY THE VENEZUELAN CHARGE COULD BE PRESENT AT THE TIME OF FOOD DELIVERIES. THE VENEZUELAN CHARGE HAD BEEN HANDED A CARBON COPY OF THE ABOVE MESSAGE BY A DOMINICAN POLICEMAN, A PROCEDURE WHICH HAD OFFENDED HIM VERY DEEPLY.

2. AFTER SOME TIME OF FURIOUS AND FUTILE GESTICULATION CHARACTERISTIC OF AGITATED LATINS VENTING THEIR SPLEEN OVER
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OFFENDED DIGNITIES, WE WERE ABLE TO FOCUS ON THE SUBSTANCE.

WE AGREED THAT THE GODR WAS UNMISTAKABLY SIGNALLING THAT IT NO LONGER NEEDED OUR COOPERATION. THE VENEZUELAN, AS WAS PREDICTABLE, SAID THAT IN ANY EVENT HE WOULD NOT GO ALONE. MY SPANISH COLLEAGUE AND I AGREED THAT THE PUBLIC IMAGE OF HAVING A VENEZUELAN ALONE APPEARING AS A GUARANTOR OF OUR RESPECTIVE NATIONALS WOULD NOT REDOUND TO OUR FAVOR AND COULD AROUSE ANXIETY IN THE MINDS OF OUR CAPTIVE NATIONALS. WE DECIDED THEREFORE TO PROTEST THE MATTER BOTH ON SUBSTANTIVE AND PROCEDURAL GROUNDS, RECOGNIZING FULLY THAT WE WERE PROBABLY REACTING PRECISELY AS THE GODR EXPECTED. NEVERTHELESS WE FELT THAT SINCE IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE GODR WANTED US OUT OF THE PICTURE ENTIRELY, THE PRESENCE OF OUR VENEZUELAN COLLEAGUE IN THE VICINITY OF HIS CONSULATE, IF WE ACCEDED, WOULD PROBABLY ONLY BE PERMITTED ONCE OR AT MOST TWICE.

3. WE THEN TELEPHONED DR. QUEZADA. AMBASSADOR VALLS FIRST UNBURDENED HIMSELF IN A TONE OF WHITE ANGER OF HIS VIEWS ON THE WHOLE MATTER. CUBILLAN SPUNKILY SAID THAT HE WAS NOT SOMEONE TO BE THE OBJECT OF POLICE DECISION. I SAID TO QUEZADA THAT THIS WAS A MATTER OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE, THAT I HAD ALREADY INFORMED MY GOVERNMENT OF THE MATTER, THAT MY GOVERNMENT'S INSTINCTIVE DISPOSITION WAS TO CALL IN THE DOMINICAN AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON TO PROTEST, AND THAT I HAD ONLY BARELY SUCCEEDED IN OVERCOMING THIS INSTINCT BY STATING THAT I BELIEVED SUCH DRASTIC TACTICS WERE UNNECESSARY SINCE IN THE PRESENT SITUATION I WAS CERTAIN THE LONG AWAITED APPOINTMENT WITH THE PRESIDENT WOULD NOW BE FORTHCOMING. ACCORDINGLY, I INFORMED QUEZADA THAT THE THREE OF US WERE ON OUR WAY TO THE PALACE, WHERE WE HOPED SOMEONE WOULD PROVIDE US WITH A RADIO SO THAT WE COULD LISTEN TO AND REPORT TO OUR GOVERNMENTS THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH THAT WAS ABOUT TO GO ON THE AIR, AND THAT WE WERE PREPARED TO WAIT AT THE PALACE ALL NIGHT IF NECESSARY UNTIL WE HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT. QUEZADA ASKED FOR TWO MINUTES TO CONSULT. TEN MINUTES LATER HE HAD THE GRATIFYING EXPERIENCE OF INFORMING US THAT PRESIDENT BALAGUER WOULD BE MOST PLEASED TO RECEIVE US AS SOON AFTER THE END OF HIS SPEECH AS POSSIBLE.

4. DURING MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BALAGUER, OUR POETIC SPANISH SPOKESMAN DWELT ELOQUENTLY ON THE PROCEDURAL LAPSES OF POLICE CHIEF GUZMAN. BALAGUER, OBVIOUSLY ENJOYING
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VALLS' PERFORMANCE, LAUGHED APPRECIATIVELY AND OBSERVED THAT "GUZMAN HAD NOT GRADUATED FROM A VERY GOOD SCHOOL OF DIPLOMACY." TOWARD THE END OF THE MEETING, I SUGGESTED THAT IN LIGHT OF THE PREVIOUS CONVERSATION, PERHAPS IT WOULD BE BETTER THAT GUZMAN'S MISSIVE BE RETURNED AS "NON-EXISTENT." BALAGUER, ONCE AGAIN VERY GOOD HUMOREDLY, EXTENDED HIS HAND AND MY SPANISH AND VENEZUELAN COLLEAGUES GAVE HIM THE MEMORANDA RECEIVED. INCIDENT CLOSED. (WE

HAD, OF COURSE, PRUDENTLY MADE PHOTOCOPIES OF THE
MEMORANDUM BEFOREHAND FOR OUR FILES.)
HURWITCH

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